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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 553  
By Maddox

A RESOLUTION To honor Mary Burchard upon the occasion of her retirement from the Board of Directors of the Community Developmental Services.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those exemplary citizens who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mary Burchard is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, A highly respected leader in Obion County, she has meritoriously served as a member of the Community Developmental Services Board of Directors (CDS) since December 16, 1985; she will take a much deserved retirement from this important position on June 30, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Burchard grew up in Ogden, Utah and attended Weaver College in Utah; a sterling scholar, she graduated in 1936 with a degree in Social Work from Montevallo University in Montevallo, Alabama; and

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WHEREAS, Moving to Tennessee to be near her grandmother, Mary Burchard accepted a position with the Department of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, In Tennessee, she met and fell in love with her first husband, Paul Colley, who served as the minister of the Exchange Church of Christ in Union City; sadly, Mr. Colley died only six months after their marriage; and

WHEREAS, In September 1943, Ms. Burchard married Jack Burchard; having enlisted in the United States Air Force a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Staff Sergeant Burchard was first stationed in Florida; and

WHEREAS, While living in Miami, Mary Burchard worked for the Children's Service Bureau; when her husband was transferred to San Antonio, Texas, Mary Burchard served the American Red Cross there and began her outstanding career in education; and

WHEREAS, After Jack Burchard's discharge from the U.S. Air Force, they returned to Union City, Tennessee, where Mr. Burchard was first employed by the *Union City Daily Messenger* and later opened up an art supply business; and

WHEREAS, Together Mary and Jack Burchard built a life of love and public service; the couple was blessed with one beautiful daughter, Brenda, who now has two children and two grandchildren of her own; after thirty seven years of marriage to Mary, Jack Burchard died in 1980; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Burchard is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, Mary Burchard conscientiously served as a Second Grade Teacher at Rives Elementary School in Obion County, before transferring to the Union City school system, where she taught in the classrooms of Westover School and served as a School Attendance Teacher; and

WHEREAS, In 1964, she began her exceptional professional career in the community mental health field; co-founding the Northwest Counseling Center in 1968, she honorably

served the Center in numerous capacities for nineteen years, including serving as the first Center Director; and

WHEREAS, Known in Obion County as the “Mother of Mental Health,” Mary Burchard was recognized by the Northwest Counseling Center in June, 1987 for her dedication to the mental health community; she has also been awarded the prestigious National Council of Community Mental Health Centers' Distinguished Service Award; and

WHEREAS, An astute leader, she has served several terms as CDS Chairperson of the Nominating Committee and as a member of the CDS Personnel Committee; she also served as CDS Board Chairperson from November 18, 1991 through June 30, 1993; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her Board duties, Ms. Burchard has ably served for many years on Community Developmental Services' Behavior Management Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mary Burchard has contributed her time and energies to numerous community projects, serving countless volunteer hours on boards, task forces, and committees; currently she is a valuable member of the Board of the Obion County Nursing Home and is a volunteer for the Exchange Street Church of Christ Meals on Wheels program and the Union City Baptist Memorial Hospital; and

WHEREAS, The epitome of a kind and giving neighbor, she drives many friends to appointments and social activities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Burchard is a wonderful human being who inspires others with her dedication, kindness, and enthusiasm; her life of service and goodwill stands as a testament to the difference one person can make; and

WHEREAS, It is the privilege of this General Assembly to honor Mary Burchard for her uncommon devotion and service to the citizens of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Mary Burchard, commend her sixteen years of service to

the Board of Community Developmental Services, applaud her steadfast commitment to her community, impart our gratitude for her altruistic efforts, and extend to her our best wishes for her every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy